



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Black Hills National Forest

Mystic Ranger District
8221 South Highway 16
Rapid City SD 57702
605-343-1567

File Code: 1950 – Teckla-Osage-
Rapid City Transmission
Line Project

Date: JUN 27 2014

Greetings from the Black Hills National Forest, Thunder Basin National Grassland, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM):

The Forest Service and BLM are evaluating a proposal by Black Hills Power (BHP) to construct and operate a 230 kV electric transmission line connecting the Teckla Substation in Campbell County, Wyoming to the Osage Substation in Weston County, Wyoming and the Lange Substation located near Rapid City, South Dakota. This transmission line would strengthen the transmission network, improve transmission system reliability, and help meet future demand for electricity and economic development in the region. The transmission line would cross private, state, and public lands in Wyoming and South Dakota including the Black Hills National Forest, Thunder Basin National Grasslands, and lands managed by the BLM and State of Wyoming.

The Forest Service and BLM completed a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for this project in December 2013. Some public comments received during the ensuing comment period suggested additional route modifications on certain segments of the transmission line. Since most in the public have not seen these additional newly-proposed modifications, I am providing an opportunity to review and comment on them now. Specifically, **I am requesting comment on Route Modifications H, I, and J, crossing portions of the Black Hills National Forest.** Please see attached maps.

Comments submitted in response to this solicitation **should be postmarked no later than Wednesday, July 16.** To be most useful, comments should specifically state reasons you do or do not support the newly-proposed route modifications. While comment on other topics will be considered I am primarily seeking comments from those interested in or affected by these additional newly-proposed modifications to the transmission line route. The DEIS, maps showing the newly-proposed modifications, and a comment form are available on the Black Hills National Forest website at <http://go.usa.gov/Bh1>.

Prior Comment If you already commented during the 45-day comment period on the DEIS or during the informal comment period initiated by my letter of April 3, 2014, to certain landowners in the Black Hills, you need not resubmit those comments. Those who submitted timely, specific written comments at those times, and those who respond timely in writing to this mailing, may



be eligible to participate in the pre-decisional objection process which will take place after the Final Environmental Impact Statement is issued later this year.

Please send comments to:

Ruth Esperance, District Ranger, Mystic Ranger District,
ATTN: Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Project,
8221 South Highway 16, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Or, comments may be emailed to: comments-rocky-mountain-black-hills-mystic@fs.fed.us with "Teckla-Osage-Rapid City Transmission Line" as the subject. Electronically submitted comments must be readable in Microsoft Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), or pdf format.

Please address questions, or requests for information, to me or Jessica Eggers at the above address, phone 605-343-1567; or to Ed Fischer at the Black Hills National Forest Supervisor's Office in Custer, SD at (605) 673-9207.

Sincerely,



RUTH ESPERANCE
District Ranger

Enclosures: Comment Form and Two (2) maps